

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-40 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended as supported by Fig. 1 of the present application, for example. Claims 5, 15, 31 and 38-40 have been amended to correct matters of form.

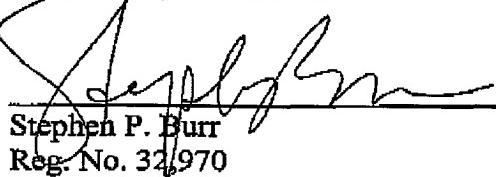
Examiner Mooney is thanked for courtesies extended to applicants' undersigned representative during the telephonic interview on July 29, 2003. During the interview, Examiner Mooney tentatively indicated that the above-outlined amendments to claim 1 would overcome the art-based rejections asserted in the Office Action.

In view of all the foregoing, applicants' respectfully submit that claims 1-40 are in condition for allowance. Examiner Mooney is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application as soon as possible.

Should Examiner Mooney deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, he is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representative.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephen P. Burr
Reg. No. 32/970

SPB/eav

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